

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 782

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

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Hearing Date: April 8, 2021 8:00 AM

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DeShauna Hollie

Self

Waco, TX

Voting is basic right for every citizen. We should not be seeking to make it harder for people to vote. These bills have been introduced based on fear and they only serve to aid a minority of the voters in Texas. Instead we should be introducing bills that benefit all of the people of the state.

Crisarla Houston

Self, Attorney

Waco, TX

Texas voters have a right to vote that should not be limited. Please do not pass voting laws that make it harder for people to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We are watching our leaders, and we will not be deterred from voting. We will work hard to vote out leaders who limit people's ability to vote in any way. Thank you.

Carrie Moore

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

VOte Yes- if we expect people to understand what they are voting for, the wording needs to be simplified.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

VOTE yes, double speak in the wording of propositions has been a real problem. Good bill

Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

Vote YES to enforce SoS oversight of overly complicated wording in propositions that use double negatives and run-on sentences. Clarity in these propositions and petitions is of utmost importance.

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

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Vote yes. Making propositions easier to understand is a no brainer. Those things are confusing as all get out.

Amanda Friedeck, Mrs.

Silver Star Food Stores/BRANDS Marketing Group, LLC I am in favor with HB 2546. Please consider to pass this House Bill to cut the loopholes in the election system.

Alice/Jim Wells County, TX

I am in favor with HB 782. Please consider to pass this House Bill to cut the loopholes in the election system.

Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

I support HB 782. I am asking the committee to bring forth HB6 and vote it out of committee to calendars. It is an extremely important bill. Word is that our House Republicans have become weak toward this bill due to democrat voices bombarding them with negative views. Please do not submit to that. We NEED HB6. Please review during this hearing and vote it out of committee.

Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

Vote yes

DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes. We, the general public, would absolutely like to be able to understand a petition's actual intent and not be misled by double-speak!

Kimberly Bridges Young

Self, Retired

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes! Most propositions to be voted on by Nueces County voters are not easy to understand, even to this college graduate! The use of double negatives and extended run-on sentences makes you wonder how that language got approved. Thank you for enforcing SoS oversight on proposition language and petitions.

DANIELLE CONVERSE

self

Portland, TX

Vote yes for House Bill 782. Ballot language is often difficult to understand, and sometimes misleading. Texas voters should not have to analyze and use critical thinking skills to understand the intent of a particular proposition due to the ballot language. I have a B.S. in biology and chemistry, and have spent the majority of my adult life working in environmental regulations, which

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would lead one to believe that reading a proposition would be a simple task. I can attest, on several occasions I have had to read and re-read ballot propositions to ensure I have a complete understanding of what I am voting for or against. The allowance of a citizen to petition the Secretary of State for review of ballot language will ensure that propositions are clear and concise to the majority of voters.

Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes on HB 784

Often propositions are misleading in that in order to vote for it, you must vote no, and vice versa. This is purposely misleading. For that reason, I believe this bill is a great bill by which people know exactly what they are voting for.

Shantia Reese

Self

Austin, TX

Corporations are not people and do not get to vote with their dollars. People are people and use their voices to vote in the ballot box. These laws are anti-democratic and you need to increase access to voting and not to limit it, "We the People" choose the leaders that govern us, making the voting process harder goes against our constitution. These are new Jim Crow Laws of the time to prevent The republican party thinks it should be easier to own a gun than it is to vote. You said that you are for common-sense laws that protect voting. In the U.S. Constitution, it is a right and a privilege, and your party is trying to limit that, which is disturbing as you condemn democrats for adding in gun laws that protect people from dangerous weapons. How are the proposed bills by the republican party for Texas common-sense bills? They are restricting access because you all want to control who elects you. If you want to protect voting rights for the people, you will get rid of the redlining that limits and determines who represents us in the senate and house that disenfranchises minority communities by lumping them into districts Republican voters. You would be allowing their voices to be heard by creating a system that allows them to vote for who they want. I am for increasing access for more people to vote and not less. It should not be harder to vote in this country or state than to buy a gun. Voting allows us to determine who decides how our government will function to protect us; buying a gun allows you to hurt people with that gun. It appears that the Republican party is aiming to control who has the ability to put them in power but the most recent laws that add restrictions to voting. There has been no evidence of voter fraud from the 2020 election, and your party choosing to use the Big Lie to enact these restrictions is Ludacris. The slogan is "Don't Mess with Texas" please refrain from altering how Texans choose their leadership by enforcing laws and restrictions that do not help the people use their voting rights. You should vote in favor of S.4263 - John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and you should also make the election day a state holiday. Hence, individuals get the day off to have access to go vote, and service workers (who work in groceries, fast food, etc.) who cannot get off can submit absentee ballots and cast their votes. This would be the correct way to ensure all Texans and Americans can use their right as there is no voter fraud with the system we have other than when the Russians hacked the 2017 elections when Trump won, and those investigations were not changed. It appears that republicans only want to change voting laws when mass amounts of minority people use their voice. You should be voting yes on the John Lewis voting rights act as it is clear the federal government cares more about protecting voting rights than many state leaders. We need to stop putting party over people and have more social ethics when creating laws.

Julie Kellogg

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes, this is essential! I have had to really decipher the double negatives in some legislation. There should never be confusion in the bill language, no means no and yes means yes.

Jais Munoz

Self

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Midlothian, TX

Texans support this bill. We the people support it.

John Hatch

Texas Petition Strategies

Buda, TX

My company has conducted more than 450 proposition ballot measures in Texas. I support this legislation as it 1) confirms there should be no prohibitions/restrictions on who is allowed to circulate a petition 2) provides the ability to be reimbursed for having to mandamus a government to follow the law 3) provides clarity by requiring no more than 30 days to validate a petition 4) that legibility is no longer a reason to throw out valid signatures if other information is provided to show the person is a qualified voter eligible to sign the document.

Beverly Gatlin

Self

Italy, TX

I am in support of this Bill and I expect you to support it also. Votes have the right to know exactly what is being voted on. The wording is very confusing a lot of the time.

Martina Sutton

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I take issue with Section 3: allows religious organizations to circulate petitions for a recall election but doesn't allow corporations or labor organizations to do same because, the way this bill is written, it assumes their (corporations or labor organizations) circulations are political contributions. That is an unfair and incorrect blanket assumption. This section change should be struck from this bill.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I support this bill as it would deter misleading wording. The wording on a petition should be used if at all possible.